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ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT.

COMMUNICATIONS.

A TRIAL FOR MALPRACTICE.

BY E. P. HURD, M.D.,
Of Newburyport, Mass.

The case of Haskell vs. Cross, before the Supreme Court of Salem, the result of which trial is a verdict of damages for plaintiff, has excited much comment, and is likely to excite much more. The plaintiff, Mrs. Elias Haskell, broke her wrist in July, 1870, and though the bone was properly set and cared for at the time, considerable pain resulted in the hand and fingers, which was by plaintiff attributed to unskillful surgery on the part of the attending physician. Dr. Cross showed by his own, and the testimony of a neighbor woman who was present at the setting of the limb, that two splints were put on, and with only the customary tightness; that these splints were frequently loosened by partially unrolling and replacing the bandage; while the entire Haskell family were unanimous in swearing that but one splint was put on, and that bandaged with cruel tightness, and that the bandage was not loosened for a fortnight.

Dr. Cross testified to having made about sixteen visits in the treatment of the arm (an unusually long attendance for a simple Colles' fracture). He also testified that the pain complained of was not greater than might have been expected under the circumstances, *the patient being seventy-five years old, of a rheumatic family, and herself subject to rheumatism all her lifetime.* The plaintiff, after Dr. Cross ceased his attendance, applied for relief, first to the writer,

who found some swelling about the hand and fingers, with considerable stiffness of the wrist and metacarpal joints, but not more than the recency of the fracture might warrant; this being about a month after the injury. Much pain was complained of, for which the writer prescribed.

In a few days Mrs. Haskell went to Boston, and for a short time put herself under the care of Dr. Gilman Pike, who treated the hand with electricity, and testified recently at court that Mrs. Haskell came to him with a "dead" and "useless" hand. After this plaintiff went to Lowell and consulted Dr. Thompson, a homœopath, who pronounced the injury an oblique fracture of the lower end of the radius, and declared that the bone had never been set, and that there was shortening of the bone three-eighths of an inch! This was stated by Dr. T., on oath, at the court. He moreover affirmed that the application of a Bond's splint would have given a much better result. These two were the only medical witnesses that plaintiff produced at the trial. The first mentioned of these gentlemen, Dr. Pike, testified that he knew nothing of surgery. To return to the history of the case, Mrs. Haskell continued to complain of pain and stiffness of the hand and fingers, although in a few months she was able to do considerable housework. In the early part of the winter of the same year she removed to Lowell, and shortly after this, legal advice was taken of Mr. Ives, of Salem, and measures for prosecuting Dr. Cross were instituted. The suit has "trundled along" till the present session of the Supreme Court, having been put off, court after court, and

after two days' hearing of the evidence on both sides the jury have brought in a verdict mulcting Dr. Cross to the extent of three hundred dollars and costs.

Dr. Cross produced evidence at court to prove the existence of rheumatic diathesis in the family, almost every member of which has on one or more occasions suffered from rheumatism. He also proved that he had frequently been called to attend the plaintiff herself for rheumatic difficulties, and that both hands had frequently suffered from rheumatism. The plaintiff confessed to having had a good deal of rheumatism in the right hand and wrist, but asserted that she had never had any of any account in the left, the fractured wrist. As an offset to this, however, the defendant produced the testimony of several persons who had long been acquainted with Mrs. Haskell, who proved that both members had often been subject to rheumatism, and that she had been disabled thereby. The testimony of the medical experts was of a most satisfactory nature, and had the jury been a body of sensible men, would have been of itself sufficient to have caused a verdict to be rendered for Dr. Cross. These medical witnesses were Drs. Hodges, of the Massachusetts General Hospital, a surgeon of note, who needs no praises from me; Dr. Hurd, of Ipswich; Drs. Pearson and Perkins, of Salem; all men of high standing in the profession. These gentlemen all made a patient and thorough examination of plaintiff's arm and hand in the presence of the jury. They were unanimous in pronouncing the wrist and hand all right, and the results of the surgical treatment by Dr. Cross excellent. All of them affirmed that they could not find where the bone was broken, and only one of them testified that he should have known that there had been a fracture. They all declared that the amount of pain was no greater than could have been expected, considering the advanced age of the plaintiff and her rheumatic habit, and that the *bandaging* at the time of the fracture was not the cause of that pain. Never was medical man, tried for malpractice, more triumphantly vindicated by professional experts. The majority present at the trial expected that this would decide the matter, but they were doomed to disappointment. You have been told the result of their twenty-five hours' deliberation.

Dr. Cross is the oldest practitioner in this

city. Upwards of seventy-two years old, he has followed the drudgery of medical practice for almost fifty years. It is lamentable that this indignity should have been inflicted on him now. He has deserved better things, for he has been a successful and a beloved physician.

The real indignity, however, has been inflicted on the entire medical profession, and especially on the Massachusetts Medical Society, of which Dr. Cross has long been an honored member, and which was represented at the trial by the respected medical experts above mentioned. Their testimony went for nothing, while medical testimony on the other side was of real account, though emanating from men who talked learnedly about "strangulation of the circulation" by tight splints; forearm bones shortened "three-eighths of an inch;" flexor muscles attached to the arm permanently contracted by the shortened limb; and lumbricall muscles attached to the sides of the fingers. This, I should observe, was in the testimony of the homœopath from Lowell. The pomposity, conceit, and pedantry of this medical witness were something remarkable. Dr. Pike's testimony was, to say the least, modestly given.

If this case be established as a precedent, none of us are safe. Any family of doubtful reputation, that desires to escape paying an honest bill, or is eager for gain, no matter by what means, can combine against us, swear that we have been guilty of cruelty or neglect, and juries can be found who will find us guilty and sweep from us at a blow the hard-earned savings of years.

I should remark that on the jury that convicted Dr. Cross there was not one Newburyport man, or one man that seemed to possess even ordinary intelligence. The truth may as well be told. It is quite possible at the present day to empanel a jury of illiterate men; of men who are more likely to be moved by their sympathies than by any appeal to their reason, especially if the plaintiff be a female; or of men who have much more sympathy for a quack than for a regular practitioner.

There is probably no other profession where the testimony of experts would be made of so little account. Surely in a matter of law, an ignorant jury would not venture an opinion contrary to that of distinguished experts in the legal profession.

In the construction of a dyke, a bridge, a

railroad, a steam engine, a ship, a piano (I might enlarge the list indefinitely), some little weight in a court of justice would be attached to the testimony of the skilled witness who was known by popular reputation to be authority in such matters.

It is to be hoped that Medical Societies will give one expression to their feelings at this extraordinary *finale* of the solemn farce recently enacted at Salem.

MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-fourth annual session convened in St. Louis, Mo., on Tuesday, May 6, 1873.

Dr. D. W. Yandell, of Kentucky, opened the session.

Rev. Dr. S. J. Nicolls, of St. Louis, opened the proceedings with prayer.

An address of welcome to the delegates was made by Dr. J. S. Moore, on behalf of the Committee of Arrangements.

Dr. T. M. Logan, of California, President elect, was invited to preside.

Dr. J. B. Johnson, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, made a few remarks, and presented the roll of delegates and members, as already registered, for approval.

(448 members were registered during the session.)

Dr. Johnson announced the places of meeting for the sections, and the hours for holding the sessions, after which he presented the following programme, all of which was adopted:—

Monday evening there will be a *soiree musicale* at Mercantile Library Hall, commencing at 8 o'clock. A band has been engaged and arrangements made with Pezolt for refreshments. The wives and daughters of the physicians are expected to be present.

Tuesday evening there will be held a *levee* at the residence of Col. J. L. D. Morrison, corner of Locust street and Leffingwell av.

On Thursday evening Dr. J. J. Woodward, U. S. A., of Washington, will, by special request of the Committee of Arrangements, deliver the Toner lecture at Masonic Hall.

On Friday afternoon the visitors will view Lafayette Park, Tower Grove and Shaw's Garden. Carriages to leave the hall at two o'clock.

As there were some delegations contested, all these cases were at once referred to the Committee on Ethics.

The President announced as the Committee on Ethics for 1873 Drs. N. S. Davis, Illinois; E. L. Howard, Maryland; H. F. Askew, Delaware; D. W. Yandell, Kentucky; and J. M. Toner, District of Columbia.

The President then delivered the annual

address, Vice-President Dr. B. H. Catlin, Connecticut, presiding.

On motion of Dr. W. Brodie, Michigan, thanks were tendered the President for his address, and it was referred to the Committee of Publication.

Dr. E. L. Howard, Maryland, offered his report of the Committee on Better Arrangement of the Sections, etc., which was made the special order for Wednesday at 10 o'clock.

Dr. J. J. Woodward, U. S. A., offered a paper on Rank in the Army, which was made the special order for Wednesday at 11 o'clock.

The Committee on Nomenclature of Diseases, offered their report, which was made the special order for Thursday at 10 o'clock.

The report of the Committee on American Medical Neurology was presented by the chairman, Dr. J. D. Jackson, Kentucky, and on motion was referred to the Committee of Publication.

The Report of the Committee on Suggestions in Medical Education, Dr. A. M. Pollock, Pa., chairman, was offered and made the special order for Thursday at 11 o'clock.

Several voluntary communications were offered and referred to the appropriate sections.

On motion it was agreed that the several States should report their members of the Committee on Nominations at the opening of the morning's session.

On motion the Association adjourned.

SECOND DAY.

The President called the Association to order at 10 o'clock, A.M.

The several States reported their members of the Nominating Committee as follows:—

Alabama, G. Moses; Arkansas, A. L. Breysacher; Connecticut, W. A. M. Wainwright; Delaware, H. F. Askew; District of Columbia, F. Howard; Georgia, J. P. Logan; Illinois, H. A. Johnson; Indiana, W. H. Meyers; Iowa, A. M. Carpenter; Kansas, D. W. Stormont; Kentucky, R. H. Gale; Maine, A. Garcelon; Maryland, S. P. Smith; Massachusetts, L. F. Warner; Michigan, W. Brodie; Minnesota, A. B. Stuart; Missouri, J. B. Johnson; Mississippi, J. W. M. Shattuck; New Hampshire, E. F. McQuestan; New Jersey, S. Lilly; New York, H. W. Dean; North Carolina, R. J. Hicks; Ohio, A. Dunlap; Pennsylvania, W. J. Asdale; Rhode Island, L. Morton; Tennessee, W. T. Briggs; Texas, D. R. Wallace; Virginia, F. D. Cunningham; West Virginia, G. Baird; Wisconsin, E. P. Russell; U. S. Army, B. A. Clements; U. S. Navy, C. Eversfield.

The Committee of Arrangements reported a number of additional delegates, members by invitation, and permanent members.

On motion of Dr. Davis, of Illinois, the list as read was approved, except the members by invitation, which list was referred to the committee for revision.

An invitation for the Association to meet next year in Detroit was read and referred to the Nominating Committee.

Special business being in order, the report on Better Arrangement of the Sections was read by the chairman, Dr. E. L. Howard, of Maryland.

The committee suggested that all lengthy papers be referred to a sub-committee, to determine as to the advisability of bringing them before the sections. Each section to have a sub-committee for this special purpose.

Effective action was urged on the important subject of medical instruction. That all questions of a personal character, complaints, and on credentials, be referred to the Committee on Ethics without discussion. That the Committee on Ethics be constituted of not less than nine members, to be selected by the Nominating Committee, and to serve for three years. The following arrangement for sections was suggested in place of that now existing:—

1. Practical medicine, materia medica and physiology.
2. Obstetrics, and diseases of women and children.
3. Surgery and anatomy.
4. Medical jurisprudence, chemistry and psychology.
5. State medicine and public hygiene.

The committee demand a more rigid examination of all papers offered for examination, and thus cut off all that are stale, loose, or verbose, and not calculated to reflect credit on the Association.

A minority report was presented by Dr. Bronson, of Massachusetts, who objected to the suggestion about the Committee on Ethics. He wanted them to be appointed annually instead of serving for three years.

On motion of Dr. Davis the report and accompanying resolutions, amending the Constitution, except that relating to the Committee on Ethics, were unanimously adopted.

Dr. Davis offered as a substitute for the resolution on the Committee on Ethics, that a committee, known as the Judicial Council, be appointed, consisting of twenty-one members, seven elected for one, seven for two, and seven for three years, and annually thereafter seven members should be elected, to whom should be referred all matters of ethics, etc.

The substitute was unanimously adopted.

A letter from Dr. S. D. Gross, of Pennsylvania, was read, advocating certain amendments, and Dr. Davis then offered the following:—

Resolved, That all relating to Committees on Medical Education, Medical Literature, and Climatology and Epidemic Diseases, be stricken out, in accordance with the amendment proposed by Dr. Gross in 1872, and add—

XII. Addresses. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to appoint annually three members who shall deliver addresses before the Association at the next annual meeting after their appointment—one on Medicine, one on Surgery, and one on Obstetrics and Diseases of Women—no one address to occupy more than 40 minutes.

After much discussion, on motion of Dr. E. L. Howard the resolutions of Dr. Davis were laid upon the table.

On motion of Dr. Todd, of Kansas, the report of the committee and all the resolutions attached were adopted in full.

Dr. J. J. Woodward, U. S. A., then read a memorial from the medical officers of the army asking for increased rank, etc., and asking the aid of the Association to procure what they desired.

On motion of Dr. J. M. Keller, Kentucky, it was:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association the rank of the medical officers of the army ought to be fully equal to that of officers of any other staff corps, or of the medical corps of the navy; that we learn with regret that this is not the case, and that we regard with grave disapproval the odious discrimination thus made against a meritorious body of officers.

Resolved, That we look upon the law which prohibits promotions and appointments in the medical corps of the army as unwise and unjust, and that in our opinion it ought forthwith to be repealed.

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed by the President to memorialize Congress on this subject, and that each member of this Association pledges himself to use all his influence with the member of Congress from his own district in behalf of the objects of these resolutions.

Committee: Drs. J. M. Keller, Kentucky; H. F. Askew, Delaware; J. M. Toner, District of Columbia; J. A. Murphy, Ohio; and N. S. Davis, Illinois.

The report of the Committee on Medical Education was read by the Chairman, Dr. John Carson, Ohio, and referred to the Committee of Publication.

The report on Medical Literature was read by Dr. L. P. Yandell, Jr., Kentucky, and similarly referred.

The reports of the Committee of Publication, of the Treasurer, and of the Librarian, were read and similarly referred.

Dr. J. M. Toner presented a large number of valuable statistics as to hospitals, medical societies, etc., in the United States, which were referred to the Committee of Publication with discretionary power.

The Secretary read Dr. J. M. DaCosta's memorial on Dr. S. H. Dickson, as ordered at the last session, and on motion, the resolution appended was adopted, and the memorial ordered to be spread upon the minutes.

Dr. John S. Moore, of St. Louis, Chairman of the Committee on Prize Essays, announced that only one such production had been received, and it was not deemed worthy of any of the prizes offered.

The Secretary read a list of names of those who had been appointed to represent the American Medical Association to the British Medical Association, and announced that the commission of delegates would be made out immediately.

The following named gentlemen compose

the list: Drs. F. G. Smith, C. Wister, J. S. Cohen, of Philadelphia; Dr. E. Warren, of Baltimore; Dr. C. L. Ives, of New Haven; Dr. Edward Montgomery, of St. Louis; Drs. F. Barker, E. Seguin and J. C. Hutchinson, of New York; Paul F. Eve, Tenn.; J. A. Alexander, Va.; C. J. O'Hagan, South Carolina.

The Committee on Nominations, through their Chairman, Dr. J. B. Johnson, reported in part as follows:—

Your committee suggest the following gentlemen for the various offices named:—

President.—Dr. J. M. Toner, District of Columbia.

First Vice-President.—W. Y. Gadberry, of Mississippi.

Second Vice-President.—J. M. Keller, of Kentucky.

Third Vice-President.—N. C. Husted, of New York.

Fourth Vice-President.—L. F. Warner, of Massachusetts.

Treasurer.—Dr. Casper Wister, of Philadelphia.

Librarian.—Wm. Lee.

Committee on Library.—Johnson Elliott.

Assistant Secretary.—Theodore A. McGraw, Detroit.

Committee on Arrangements.—Dr. W. Brodie, Chairman; James A. Brown, Morse Stewart, J. F. Noyes, E. W. Jenks, Henry F. Lyster, D. O. Farrard, Eugene Smith, all of Detroit.

Committee on Prize Essays.—Drs. J. K. Johnson, A. Sager, H. Hitchcock, of Detroit; E. Andrews, Ills.; E. S. Gaillard, Ky.

Committee on Publication.—Drs. F. G. Smith, W. B. Atkinson, D. Murray Cheston, Pennsylvania; Wm. Lee, District Columbia; Casper Wister, Pennsylvania; H. F. Askew, Delaware; Alfred Stillé, Pennsylvania.

Detroit was named for the next annual meeting of the Association.

This report was adopted by the Association.

The Treasurer of the Association made a report, setting forth the fact that there was a balance in the treasury of only \$493 76, owing to the heavy expense attending the publication of the proceedings of the last annual meeting.

At this point in the proceedings an invitation was received and accepted to visit the Missouri Institution of the Blind.

Dr. Davis, of Chicago, proposed an amendment to the Constitution, as follows:—

"The delegates shall receive their appointments from permanently organized State Medical Societies and such County and District Medical Societies as are recognized by representation in their respective State Societies, and from the Medical Department of the Army and Navy of the United States."

Also "each State, County and District Society entitled to representation shall have the privilege of sending to the Association one delegate for every ten of its regular resident members, and one for every addi-

tional fraction of more than half that number. The medical staffs of the Army and Navy shall be entitled to four delegates each." Laid over.

Dr. Brodie, of Detroit, proposed that a Committee of one from each State be appointed, whose duty it shall be to revise the code of Ethics, and report at the next annual meeting; but, at the suggestion of Dr. Woodward, the subject was referred to the Judicial Council.

Dr. J. F. Matchett, Texas, offered a paper on Yellow Fever, etc., which was made the special order for 12 o'clock Thursday.

A paper by Surgeon A. L. Gihon, U.S.N., on Medical Education, was referred to the Committee on Medical Education.

Dr. Frederick Horner, Jr., U. S. Navy, offered a resolution that the American Medical Association appoint a committee of one member from each of the original thirteen States of the Union, to report to the centennial celebration on the medical, surgical, and biographical literature of the period of 1776.

As a tribute to Joseph Warren, Benjamin Rush, Arthur Lee, Gen. Hugh Mercer, and other noble and patriotic physicians who aided to secure American independence, the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Dr. Peck, of Iowa, in view of the fact that the reports of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, as exhibited in volumes one and two of the first part of the Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion, have received a too limited circulation by reason of an insufficient issue of the same by Congress, it was

Resolved, That the President and Secretary of this Association be directed to petition Congress at the next session in behalf of the profession, asking that the edition recently issued be reproduced in sufficient number to permit of general distribution to the members of the profession throughout the country.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due and are hereby tendered Congress for aiding thus far in developing and presenting to the profession the reports of the Surgeon-General, as herein specified.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are hereby tendered the officers of the United States Army who have by sacrifice and labor been instrumental in placing before the profession the valuable information contained in volume one and two of the first part of the Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion.

The Association adjourned to meet on Thursday.

LEVEE AT THE RESIDENCE OF COL. MORRISON.

The members of the Association were entertained on Tuesday evening at the elegant mansion of Col. J. L. D. Morrison, Locust street and Leffingwell avenue. There was a large and brilliant assemblage, and the honors were rendered by Col. Morrison, Mrs. Morrison and daughter, in a manner which made the affair a notable one.

THIRD DAY.

The President called the Association to order at 10 o'clock. The Secretary read the report of the Committee on Nomenclature, as follows:—

In accordance with the resolutions appended to the minority report of the committee adopted by the association at its last meeting, 100 extra copies of the proposed nomenclature were printed in pamphlet form and distributed to the profession and to the various medical journals, both at home and abroad; and such criticisms and suggestions as would represent their opinions as to its merits and fitness were invited from those receiving it. To this invitation not a single response has been made by medical journals, and but from two practitioners, the latter being such additions as in the judgment of these gentlemen would render the work more complete, but which, in the judgment of the majority, describe conditions which none but a specialist could recognize. From this statement of the results of a year's consideration of the proposed nomenclature, the conclusion may be drawn that the profession are satisfied with the work. Your committee are not willing to entertain the only other conclusion, that men of culture and practical men are indifferent upon a subject of such importance; they therefore again present the resolution appended to the majority report and ask for its adoption:—

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on the Nomenclature of Diseases be referred to a special committee of five members, to be appointed by the President, who shall examine it and report upon its final disposition at the present meeting of the Association.

Resolved, That, on the favorable report of such committee, it shall be referred back to the Committee on the Nomenclature of Diseases, for the preparation of an index to be published with it, in the forthcoming volume of the transactions.

Dr. Atkinson, of Pennsylvania, moved the report be received and the resolutions be adopted.

Dr. Woodward, of the United States Army, thought he could offer some good reason why the report should not be received, and went on to show the inferiority of the American system of nomenclature to that of the British Association, copies of which had been sent to this country, and one of which he had personally presented to the Medical Association of New Orleans, where he had been induced to vote against its adoption. This step he had since regretted, for upon comparing the Philadelphia nomenclature, now in use in this country, with the English, though at first sight there did not appear to be much difference, it would be seen upon a careful review how far superior that of the Royal College of Physicians of England was to that now in use here, and it seemed to him that, as it was certainly advisable to have some nomenclature which should be recognized

wherever the English language was spoken, it would be advisable, until some definite plan was adopted, for that of England to be used, there being so many grave faults in that of Philadelphia as to render its adoption inexpedient. He concluded by offering the following resolutions, which were adopted:—

"Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Association, it is inexpedient to adopt the nomenclature and classification presented by the majority of the Committee on Nomenclature at the meeting in Philadelphia.

"Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the President, whose duty it shall be to communicate the foregoing resolution to the proper committee of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and to negotiate for the representation of the American Medical Association in the first decennial revision of their nomenclature."

The resolutions of Dr. Woodward were adopted. Committee: Drs. Woodward, Edw. Jarvis, Mass.; A. Stillé, Philadelphia.

The Committee of Arrangements reported the following physicians for election as permanent members:—Edward Stewart, Mendon, Michigan; G. L. Polk, *Æola*, Illinois; J. W. Hollowbush, Warsaw, Ills.; John Shore, St. Louis; A. Goodenough, Idaho City; Daniel Lichty, Rochelle, Ills.; B. F. Edwards, Kirkwood, Mo.; L. A. Grimes, Concordia, Ills.; C. W. Crary, St. Louis; S. T. Newman, St. Louis; Geo. F. Center, Olney, Illinois; J. E. Faper, Charles F. Ludwig, St. Louis; Dr. Randall, Warren County, Ill.; W. W. Vinnedge, Lafayette, Ind.; R. J. Mitchell, Lewis Wilcox, R. J. Allmond, W. C. Day, R. S. Cowan, and Edward Blakesley, Illinois.

On motion of Dr. Davis, Ill., they were unanimously elected.

The President read a letter from Dr. H. R. Storer, now residing at Mentone, on the Mediterranean, for the benefit of his health, who had been giving his attention to the subject of climatology, asking that he might be appointed on a committee to inquire into and make a report on the relative advantages of American and foreign water cures, which was referred to the Committee on Nominations.

On motion of Dr. Toner, it was:

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Association, it would be an opportune occasion, at the Centennial celebration of 1876, for holding an International Medical Congress, to consider and if practicable, adopt a uniform classification and nomenclature of diseases, to be used by the profession throughout the world."

Dr. Davis read the report of the unfinished business of the Committee on Ethics of last year, as follows:

"Dr. de Marmon held credentials as a regular delegate from the Westchester County Medical Society, in New York, to the meeting of the Association in 1873. But at that meeting a protest against his admission was made on the ground that he was on trial for unprofessional conduct in his

local society. The subject was referred to this committee at so late a period of the meeting that it could not then be acted upon. From the evidence recently presented to our committee, it appears that the trial of Dr. de Marmon is still unfinished in the Westchester County Medical Society; that said Society has formally withdrawn his credentials as delegate to this Association, and consequently no present action in the matter is required by this Association.

"At a meeting of the Association in Philadelphia, May, 1872, objections were made to the admission of delegates from the Pathological Society of Berks county, Pa., on the ground of non-professional conduct on the part of many of the members of that Society. Time not permitting a full hearing of the case during that meeting of the Association, a report on it was postponed until the next meeting of the Association. In the meantime the accused parties were duly notified of the charges and requested to make answer thereto. After a full investigation of the case, your Committee on Ethics, appointed in 1872, declare a sufficient number of the charges sustained to justify the recommendation that the said Society be not allowed a representation in this Association."

After some remarks by several members, the report was adopted.

A report was presented by Dr. Davis, the chairman of the committee appointed last year to consider the question of the Secretary's salary, recommending that no specified sum be fixed as his remuneration, as they would be unable to retain the services of so able a Secretary as Dr. Atkinson, because, while the office was now comparatively honorary, members could not demand as a right such attentions as they would expect if the Secretary were in receipt of a fixed salary; besides, the funds at the disposal of the Association were not sufficient to enable them to offer sufficient remuneration to Dr. Atkinson to induce him to give so much of his time to the duties as the demands of members would exact from him; they therefore thought it would be better to name no specific sum, thus leaving the Secretary in a comparatively independent position in his relations to the Association.

It was finally agreed that the report be adopted, and that the sum of \$500 be given the Secretary as an honorarium, provided that said amount be left in the treasury after defraying the expenses of publishing the transactions, etc.

Dr. A. N. Bell, of Brooklyn, New York, offered the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That, in the judgment of this association, the establishment of a National Sanitary Bureau, with relation to the general government similar to those of the Bureaus of Agriculture and Education, is highly desirable as a means of promoting sanitary science and the protection of the public health.

Resolved, That this Association request the United States Educational Bureau to so extend the scope of its inquiry as to include

vital diseases and mortuary statistics in relation to local, meteorological and geological influences, and to disseminate the information so collected throughout the country.

Considerable discussion ensued, and the resolutions were finally adopted, and referred to the Committee on Public Hygiene and State Medicine.

The Chairman called up the special order set for 11 o'clock, and Dr. Pollock, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, presented the report on Medical Education, as follows:—

"The Committee appointed by the President at the last meeting of the Association, to take into consideration the propriety of adopting the suggestions of the Committee on Medical Education, are fully impressed with the importance of the subject, and acknowledge the value of the suggestions offered. But we believe it wholly impracticable to carry into operation any law which does not meet the hearty approval of the diverse interests connected with the teaching and practice of medicine; and while we have no doubt that this Association has grown to be a power in the profession, felt and recognized by all, yet to make its power effective, its decisions should be calm and deliberate. Therefore your committee, after due deliberation, have concluded: to recommend the adoption of the conclusion of the report of the Committee on Medical Education, which is as follows: 'That a Congress composed of two members from each State and Territory, and one from each recognized Medical College, all to be members of this Association, be appointed (or nominated by the Nominating Committee) at this present session; that said committee or Congress shall meet three days previous to our next annual meeting, and that said committee or Congress shall perfect a plan for some uniform system of medical teaching, which, when adopted by the Association, shall be the only recognized method of medical teaching in the United States.'

After a long and animated debate, during which the report was approved and reconsidered, it was finally laid on the table.

Dr. W. M. McPheeters, of St. Louis, brought forward the proposed amendment to the Constitution presented last year, by which it was sought to place the United States Marine Hospitals in the same relative position in the Medical Association as the Medical Departments of the Army and Navy, and it was laid over till the next annual meeting.

Dr. Davis, on behalf of the committee appointed to devise and recommend some plan for securing a more complete report of the doings in the several sections, submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee of Arrangements for each annual meeting of the Association are instructed to secure the services of a sufficient number of phonographic reporters, to have one in attendance on the regular sessions of each of the sections in the afternoon, as well as during the general morning sessions. That the reports

thus obtained be printed the same evening, on slips or proof sheets, in sufficient number to supply all the members of the Association in attendance early the following morning.

The second resolution provides for the method of providing for the expenses hereby incurred. The third resolution provides for the selection and revision of the most valuable parts of the proceedings, and their transmission to the Secretary for publication within twenty days after the adjournment of the Association.

On motion of Dr. R. M. Bertolet, Pennsylvania, it was

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of three to report at the next annual meeting upon the progress of Otolaryngology.

Committee: Drs. D. B. St. John Roosa, New York; Bertolet, Pennsylvania; and S. Sexton, New York.

On motion of Dr. Howard, Maryland, it was resolved that the chairmen of the several sections shall have free scope in the selection of subjects for addresses.

A motion by Dr. Keller, of Kentucky, to change the name of Judicial Council to Medical Senate was lost by a close vote.

Dr. J. J. W. Angear, of Iowa, offered the following resolution, which was carried by acclamation:—

Resolved, That we hereby tender our sincere thanks to Colonel and Mrs. J. L. D. Morrison, for the hospitality extended to and so greatly enjoyed by this Association last evening."

A member introduced a resolution pledging the Association, individually and collectively, to discontinue the use of alcoholic stimulants in prescriptions and as beverages, which was most emphatically ruled out of order, the same resolution having been presented last year, when a too free use of alcohol had been pronounced against.

The time for the next annual meeting, in Detroit, was fixed for the first Tuesday in June, May being considered too cold a month.

Dr. Davis made a suggestion affecting the utility of the meetings of the sections and the convenience of delegates wishing to attend them. He referred to the want of space and facilities for the proper attention being given to these matters, and the slim attendance which had been the result, and expressed the hope that better arrangements would be made at Detroit in this respect than they had found hitherto.

The paper on yellow fever, presented on Wednesday, was referred to the committee on Practice of Medicine.

Dr. E. L. Howard offered the following amendment, which was laid over until the next annual meeting:—

Resolved, That article 4 of the Constitution be amended, as follows: Strike out second clause of first paragraph and insert, 'They shall be nominated by the judicial council, and shall be elected by vote on a general ticket.'

Dr. Johnson, chairman of the committee

on nominations, then presented the following report on nominations for chairmen and secretaries of sections for 1874:—

1. Practice of Medicine, *Materia Medica* and Physiology, Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, chairman, and Dr. Frothingham, of Ann Arbor, Mich., secretary.

2. Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, Dr. Theodore Parvin, of Indianapolis, chairman, and Dr. Montrose A. Pallen, of St. Louis, secretary.

3. Surgery and Anatomy, Dr. S. D. Gross, of Philadelphia, chairman, and Dr. Alonzo Garcelon, of Maine, secretary.

4. Medical Jurisprudence, Chemistry and Psychology, Dr. A. N. Tally, of South Carolina, chairman, and Dr. E. L. Howard, of Maryland, secretary.

State and Public Hygiene, Dr. A. N. Bell, of Brooklyn, chairman, and Dr. A. B. Stuart, of Winona, Minn., secretary; F. A. Ross, Alabama; D. A. Linthicum, Arkansas; T. M. Logan, California; R. G. Buckingham, Colorado; B. H. Catlin, Connecticut; L. P. Bush, Delaware; F. Howard, District of Columbia; W. F. Westmoreland, Georgia; H. A. Johnson, Illinois; W. H. Myers, Indiana; J. J. Angear, Iowa; D. W. Stormont, Kansas; L. Rodgers, Kentucky; S. Fitch, Maine; H. I. Bowditch, Massachusetts; R. C. Kedzie, Michigan; A. B. Stuart, Minnesota; J. W. M. Shattuck, Mississippi; John T. Hodgen, Missouri; J. H. Parsons, New Hampshire; E. M. Hunt, New Jersey; A. N. Bell, New York; W. A. B. Norcom, North Carolina; Wm. Clendenin, Ohio; A. M. Pollock, Pennsylvania; G. M. Lenore, Rhode Island; R. A. Kenlock, South Carolina; W. T. Briggs, Tennessee; D. R. Wallace, Texas; J. L. Caball, Virginia; James Brownfield, West Virginia; H. B. Strong, Wisconsin; A. F. Woodward, Vermont; S. M. Bemis, Louisiana.

Resolved, That the secretary of the Association be authorized to fill up all vacancies in the committee from the States and Territories.

Also, that Dr. A. N. Bell, N. Y., be President, and Dr. A. B. Stuart, Wis., Secretary.

Committee on Necrology—Chairman, Dr. A. Sager, Ann Arbor, Mich., and committee remain same as last year, excepting Dr. Alonzo Garcelon, of Maine, in place of Dr. McRuer, deceased; Dr. W. McCabe, Kansas; J. W. H. Baker, Iowa; J. H. Wheeler, New Hampshire; Dr. Milligan, Minnesota; W. M. Chambers, Illinois; G. Sutton, Indiana; A. J. Lands, Georgia; A. B. Vaughn, Mississippi; George Mitchell, Ohio; J. J. Woodward, U. S. A.; N. M. Dodson, Wisconsin; L. P. Yandell, Sen., Kentucky.

Judicial Council—Three years—Dr. W. Brodie, Michigan; N. S. Davis, Illinois; E. L. Howard, Maryland; William O. Baldwin, Alabama; W. W. Dean, New York; J. P. Logan, Georgia.

Two years—L. S. Joynes, Virginia; R. N. Todd, Indiana; H. F. Askew, Delaware; J. E. Morgan, District of Columbia; Daniel

Little, New Jersey; S. M. Benham, Pennsylvania; A. Dunlap, Connecticut.

One year—Dr. J. K. Bartlett, Wisconsin; Powell, Illinois; Gale, Kentucky; Moses, Missouri; Hughes, Iowa; Bemis, Louisiana; Cheever, Massachusetts.

Dr. R. R. Storer was appointed chairman of a committee to report on American as compared with foreign water cures.

The report was adopted.

On motion, the Association adjourned.

LECTURE ON CANCER.

In the evening the Toner Lecture was delivered at Masonic Hall, by Dr. J. J. Woodward, United States Army, on cancer and cancerous growths, in which he traced the history of the researches and discoveries in this branch of medical and surgical science, and the various opinions which have been entertained by the great authorities upon the subject during the past two centuries, and then passed on to give an outline of the structure and nature of such formation.

In giving his own experience, he expressed his dissent from some of the principles and opinions held by many prominent writers on cancerous growths, and in a most elaborate and erudite discourse, illustrated by photographs of sections of cancers which had come under his own treatment, proceeded to support his views.

The illustrations were by photo-micrographs, magnified to from 2000 to 5000 times the natural size of the objects, exhibited by means of A. S. Aloe's admirable apparatus.

FOURTH DAY.

President called the Association to order at 10 A. M.

On motion of Dr. Davis the vote by which the report of the Committee on Nominations on State Board of Health was adopted, was reconsidered.

On motion of Dr. Davis the whole subject was recommitted to the Committee on Nominations.

On motion, Dr. W. F. Peck, of Iowa, was appointed a special committee to report on railroad injuries, and Dr. P. J. Farnsworth, of Iowa, on the therapeutics of ammonia.

Dr. A. S. Maxwell, of Iowa, offered the following amendment to the Constitution:—

"Resolved, That in view of the many and important duties imposed upon the Nominating Committee of this Association by resolutions adopted at this session, the Medical Society of each State and Territory that elects delegates be requested, when selecting delegates, to nominate one member of such delegation as their member of the Nominating Committee, and also designate the mode of filling vacancies." Laid over.

The following amendment was offered by Dr. A. M. Pollock, of Pennsylvania, and laid over until the next meeting:—

"Resolved, That in article 6 of the Constitution, line four, the word five be stricken out and the word ten be inserted. It will then read, 'funds may be obtained by an equal assessment of not more than \$10 an-

nually on each of the delegates and permanent members,' etc. And in by-laws, article 5, line one, strike out the word five and insert the word ten, when it will read, 'the sum of \$10 shall be assessed annually upon each delegate to the sessions of the Association, as well as upon each of its permanent members,' etc."

A resolution on intemperance was presented by Dr. H. H. Middelkamp, of Warrenton, Mo., but it was tabled.

A resolution on liquors and patent medicines, submitted by Dr. Matchet, of Texas, was also tabled.

Dr. S. S. Bond, of Washington, D. C., who was suspended last year as in arrears in his local Society, was reinstated by a vote of the Association, he being restored to membership in his local Society.

Dr. Davis then read the following majority report on ethics:—

"The majority of the Committee on Ethics, in respect to the protest of the St. Louis Medical Society against the registration of Dr. Adam Hammer, of St. Louis, as a permanent member of this Association, respectfully reports:—

"That, after due investigation and the hearing of both parties, it appears that about a year since Dr. Adam Hammer was regularly arraigned and tried by the St. Louis Medical Society, of which he was a member, on the charge of violating the code of ethics. After an apparently full investigation he was declared guilty of the charges, and at a subsequent meeting he was suspended from membership for five years and until reinstated by a vote of the Society. From this decision of the Society the suspended member appealed to a civil court for legal process to compel the Society to reinstate him. The Judge of the court decided that the charter of the Society gave it no authority to take cognizance of any personal assaults or controversies between its members, and issued a peremptory mandamus requiring the Society to rescind its vote suspending Dr. Hammer, and to restore him to his rights of membership. Under this compulsory legal restoration to membership in the St. Louis Medical Society, Dr. Hammer claims the right to be registered as a permanent member at this meeting of the Association. After due consideration it appears clear to a majority of the members of your committee that the mandamus of the Circuit Court has no other effect than simply to prevent the St. Louis Medical Society from enforcing any penalty against one of its convicted members, and does not in any degree affect the fact that he still stands convicted of having violated an important provision in the code of ethics. The Constitution of this Association, in the clause defining who shall be permanent members, states, 'that permanent members shall consist of all those who have served in the capacity of delegates, and of such other members as may receive the appointment by unanimous vote, and shall continue such so long as they remain in good standing in the body from which

they were sent as delegates.' Inasmuch as Dr. Adam Hammer still stands convicted of a violation of the code of ethics by the St. Louis Medical Society, and said Society is restrained from inflicting the penalty it has adjudged proper for the offense solely by the interference of a civil court, it cannot be claimed that he remains in good standing in that Society. Therefore, your committee is of the opinion that he ought not to be received as a permanent member of this Association at its present meeting.

"D. W. YANDELL,
N. S. DAVIS,
H. F. ASKEW."

MINORITY REPORT.

After the reading of this report, the minority-report was presented as follows:—

"The undersigned reluctantly dissents from the report of the majority of the Committee on Ethics, in the case of Dr. Hammer, on the following grounds:—

"The only question before the committee is, shall Dr. Hammer be permitted to register as a permanent member? The Constitution of this Association says: 'The permanent members shall consist of all those who have served in the capacity of delegates, and of such other members as may receive the appointment by unanimous vote, and shall continue such so long as they remain in good standing in the body from which they were sent as delegates, and comply with the requirements of the by-laws of the Association.'

"It appears that Dr. Hammer is still a member of the St. Louis Medical Society, with all the rights and privileges of any other member of that body. The undersigned holds that the committee have no right to examine the case beyond this record, and therefore move:

"That the name of Dr. Hammer be ordered entered as a permanent member of this Association.

[Signed,] E. LOYD HOWARD."

The majority report was adopted by a large majority.

The sections on psychology, etc., practice of medicine, etc., surgery, etc., materia medica, etc., and meteorology, etc, reported their minutes, which were, on motion, referred to the Committee of Publication.

On motion of Dr. Atkinson, inasmuch as Dr. Cheever was not a member of the Association, his name was removed from the list of the Judicial Council, and that of Dr. J. R. Bronson, of Massachusetts, substituted.

Dr. J. R. Bronson submitted the following:

The American Medical Association, now about to adjourn, would prove derelict in duty and appreciation did it not honor itself by an acknowledgment of the obligations under which it has been placed by the profession, the Committee of Arrangements, the press, Col. Morrison, Henry Shaw, Esq., and other citizens of St. Louis; to Dr. Woodward, U. S. A., for the elaborate scientific

dissertation delivered last evening, under the auspices of the Toner fund, by Dr. Toner, of the District of Columbia, for initiating a lecture course of scientific character; and last, but not least, to the President and other officers of this Association, for the dignified character and impartial manner in which they have performed the functions of their offices; therefore,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be extended to each and all of the afore-said, and this vote be placed upon our minutes.

Adopted.

Dr. Frederick Horner, Jr., U. S. N., after a short, but earnest speech in favor of the cause of temperance, offered the following resolutions:—

ALCOHOLIC STIMULANTS.

Resolved, That, in view of the alarming prevalence and ill-effects of intemperance, with which none are so familiar as members of the medical profession, and which have called forth from eminent English physicians the voice of warning to the people of Great Britain concerning the use of alcoholic beverages, we, the undersigned members of the medical profession of the United States, unite in the declaration that we believe that alcohol should be classed with other powerful drugs; that when prescribed medicinally it should be done with conscientious caution and a sense of great responsibility.

Resolved, We are of the opinion that the use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage is productive of a large amount of physical and mental diseases; that it entails diseased appetites and enfeebled constitutions upon offspring, and that it is the cause of a large percentage of the crime and pauperism of our large cities and country.

Resolved, That we would welcome any change in public sentiment that would confine the use of intoxicating liquors to the uses of science, art and medicine.

On motion of Dr. Spottswood, of Virginia, they were referred to the Committee on State Medicine and Public Hygiene.

The Secretary announced that Dr. E. W. Gray, of Bloomington, Ills., would read a paper next year on the relation of Physiology to the Practice of Medicine.

The following final report was submitted by the Committee on Nominations, through Dr. Garcelon, of Maine, and adopted:—

The Committee recommend that the nomination of the committee from the thirteen original States be deferred to the next annual meeting of the Association. The committee request the convention to reconsider its action in the appointment of Dr. Myers, of Indiana, as a member of the Committee on Hygiene and State Medicine, and that the name of Dr. James F. Hibbard, of Indiana, be substituted. The Committee also nominated Dr. W. O. Smith, of Newport, Kentucky, as Chairman of a Special Committee on Puerperal Fever.

On motion of Dr. Yandell, Kentucky, the selection of Chairman and Secretary of the Judicial Council was left to that body.

Dr. Davis then moved an adjournment.

President Logan, before putting the motion, made the following

FAREWELL ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN.—Our labors are now brought to a close. Our official relations herewith close. While thanking you for the kindness and courtesy extended to me, I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the great compliment tendered, not to myself alone, but to that far distant land I represent, on the Western confines of the glorious Republic. [Applause.] In the name, therefore, of California and of Oregon, I return you my best thanks for the kind consideration received at your hands, not only on this occasion, but for the distinction of the Presidency bestowed upon me last year, in the very cradle of American medicine. Proud and thankful as I am for this favor, I am still more thankful for it, when I reflect upon the indirect influence it has exercised upon the profession of the Pacific Coast, for which the compliment was obviously intended. Not for any individual merits of my own, but for the common efforts of our medical men in giving you a grateful welcome, was the post of honor awarded to California. Prior to your advent there the medical mind was in a state of inertia, the profession in a chaotic condition. The State Medical Society was in the fourteenth year of a Rip Van Winkle sleep. But no sooner were the clarion notes of your coming sounded, than a new spirit was awakened,

and from their sheltering privacy, in all parts of California, volunteers poured in and threw themselves into the movement which was to regenerate the prostrated glory of their calling. [Applause.] How well they have succeeded, let their works and not my words tell. I have only to say that such were the high character and acknowledged merits of the papers read at the first annual meeting of their renaissance, that the Legislature made forth with an appropriation for their annual publication. Thus recognized and indorsed by the State, the Society has continued to advance to a higher and higher plane at each successive meeting. So complete has been our success in elevating the profession in California, that at the last meeting, some four weeks ago, we were not only honored, for the first time in the medical history of our State, with a bounteous reception from the Governor, but also the President of the University left the seat of learning, 120 miles distant from the capital, to address us on the subject of medical education, and, with our honored Governor, graced our festive board. Appreciated as we now are by the State, we will continue our endeavors to add a lustre to the high trusts that have been so generously confided to us, and to render ourselves more and more worthy of the next visit you may in your judgment think fit to accord to California. Grant that it may be soon. I now declare the twenty-fourth annual session of the American Medical Association adjourned.

The Association then adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday in June, 1874, at Detroit, Michigan.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

PERISCOPE.

The Therapeutics of Infancy.

Dr. EUSTACE SMITH says, in an article in the *Medical Press and Circular*:—

There is one class of remedies which is of singular value in the treatment of the diseases of young children, viz., the alkalies. In all children (in infants especially) there is constant tendency to an acid fermentation of their food. This arises partly from the nature of their diet, into which milk and farinaceous matters enter so largely; partly from the peculiar activity of their mucous glands, which pour out an alkaline secretion in such large quantities. An excess of farinaceous food, therefore, soon begins to ferment, and an acid is generated, which stimulates the mucous membrane to further secre-

tion. In all chronic diseases, and in many of the acute disorders, this sour condition of the stomach and bowels is present. Alkalies are therefore useful, firstly, in neutralizing the acid products of this fermentation; and secondly, in checking the too abundant secretion from the mucous glands. A few grains of soda or potassa, given an hour or two after taking food, will quickly remedy this derangement and remove the distressing symptoms which arise from it. In the chronic diseases, indeed, attention to this point is of especial importance; for by placing the stomach and bowels in a healthy state, and insuring a proper digestion of food, we put the child in a fair way of recovery, and prepare the way for the administration of tonic and strengthening medicines, by which his restoration to health is brought about.

In prescribing for infants, an aromatic

should always be included in the mixture. The aromatics are useful, not only for their flavoring properties, but also for their value in all those cases of abdominal derangement where flatulence, pain, and spasm, resulting from vitiated secretions, and undigested food, are present to increase the discomfort of the patient. Such dyspeptic phenomena are usually relieved rapidly by the use of these agents; and aniseed, cinnamon, caraway-seed, or even tincture of capsicum in minute doses, will be found important additions to the prescription in all cases where alkalies are required.

In prescribing for children, the proper dose of a medicine cannot always be calculated according to the age of the child, and does not in all cases bear the same proportion to the quantity suitable for an adult. For certain drugs children show a remarkable tolerance, while to the action of others they show as remarkable a susceptibility. Thus opium, it is well known, acts upon a child more powerfully than would be expected, judging from the mere difference of age. It should therefore be given to infants with a certain caution, especially if the child be enfeebled by disease. It is, however, a medicine which is of especial value in the treatment of the diseases of infancy, and may be given without fear if care be taken not to repeat the dose too frequently. Belladonna, on the contrary, can be taken by children in large quantities. A child two or three years old will bear without inconvenience a dose which in an adult might produce very uncomfortable symptoms. Lobelia, again, is a remedy which is very well borne by children. Dr. Ringer has given it to "very young children" in doses of five minims every hour, and in no case has he noticed any ill effects to follow its administration. Arsenic should be given to children over five years of age in the same dose as that used to adults, and infants a mouth or two old will take one drop of Fowler's solution three times a day with great benefit in cases of gastric catarrh. The influence of mercury upon young children, deserves remark. It seldom in them produces stomatitis or salivation; but an excess of the drug is not therefore harmless; its influence is seen in the irritation of the alimentary canal which it so often excites, and in the profound anæmia which it induces. The anæmia which is so common a sequence of constitutional syphilis in infants is no doubt often a result of too long-continued mercurial treatment.

When the physician has prescribed the necessary medicines, and given directions as to the diet and general management of the child, his duties are not necessarily ended. It is his part not only to advise, but also, as far as possible, to see that his directions are carried out. The soundest advice is useless if it be not put into practice, and all the art of the physician may be neutralized by weakness or indifference on the part of the attendants. From a feeling of injudicious fondness a mother will sometimes

neglect the duties entrusted to her, through a fear of inflicting pain or an unwillingness to subject the child to annoyance. In these cases the medical attendant should impress upon her the importance of the measures to be taken, and should remind her that he is there only as an adviser, while it is her task to put his advice into practice. During an illness a child is too often considered as one whose slightest desire is to be instantly gratified, on the ground that opposition might aggravate the severity of his complaint, even if it did not exercise an unfavorable influence upon the issue. A fretful, petted child well knows how to take advantage of this feeling, and the unwise indulgence of those around him is often the most serious obstacle to his recovery. If, however, a child be well enough to form unreasonable wishes, he is not too ill to bear the disappointment of a refusal, and the mother should endeavor with gentle tact to divert her child's thoughts from any hurtful inclination of the moment, remembering that the truest kindness consists in abiding strictly by the directions of the physicians, and in allowing nothing which would in any way interfere with recovery.

REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

NOTES ON CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

—Professor HAUGHTON's long expected and much sought-for work on "The Principles of Animal Mechanics" has been issued by Messrs. Longman from the Dublin University Press, and as a unique and most valuable contribution to natural and mathematical science justifies to the fullest extent the anticipations to which the high scientific character of its author gave rise.

—The Academy of Medicine in Madrid proposes the following subjects for competition for its prizes:—1. A general history of disinfectants, determining which are the most efficacious in preventing diseases; 2. A critical judgment of Spanish surgery in the sixteenth century, stating to what extent it was favored by anterior conditions and by the circumstances of the time.

—Dr. EDWARD R. SQUIBBS' report on the new decennial revision of the United States Pharmacopœia has been published in pamphlet form by D. Appleton & Co., New York.

—The lately published "Catalogue of the Officers and Alumni of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, 1861-1871," is the

most complete work of the kind we have yet seen done in this country.

BOOK NOTICES.

Second Annual Report of the Board of Health of the Health Department, City of New York, April 1871 to April 1872. New York, 1872. pp. 409.

The statistical tables with which this work is replete, and the studies of a crowded metropolis which it embraces, furnish food for philanthropists and physicians. The problem of problems in modern times is that of the lowest strata of social life, how to elevate them, to make them clean, comfortable, healthy and moral. Singularly enough, they oppose all such attempts. This report tells us that the denizens of crowded tenement houses and filthy courts do not wish better quarters, and resist what others call comfort. They oppose vaccination and disinfection with equal energy.

Of the special reports in this volume we mention that by Dr. Stephen Smith, on the Effects of High Temperature in New York on the Public Health; Report on Small-pox; on the Epidemic of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, by Dr. Moreau Morris; and that on Tenement Houses, by Dr. S. Smith. Several of these are illustrated with colored diagrams and maps.

A Hand Book of Medical Electricity. By Herbert Tibbitts, M. D., London. With sixty-four illustrations. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1873. 1 vol., cloth, 8vo, pp. 164.

Without professing to be anything more than a practical resumé of the labors of others, the author of this work thought that a treatise detailing explicitly how and when to use electricity would be welcome to the profession. His first chapter is given to Medical Electricity and Electro-medical Instruments, describing the different forms of electricity under the names of Franklinism, Voltalism, and Faradism, the applications of which are in the next chapter discussed as Franklinization, Voltaization, and Faradization. A third chapter takes up electricity as an aid to diagnosis, and a fourth electro-therapeutics.

For those who wish a brief hand book, which avoids contested points and uncertain results, confining itself to the positively

known and the practical, we recommend Tibbitt's treatise.

Fourth Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts, January, 1873. 1 vol., pp. 473.

The excellent reports of this Board have been complimented by the leading journals of the world, and with very good reason. The present volume, like its predecessors, contains a large store of interesting matter. The subjects treated are sewerage and the water supply of towns; on beer shops and prohibitory laws; on substances used for flavoring articles of food and drink; drainage for health; infant mortality; the food of the people of Massachusetts; the adulteration of milk; on some of the causes or antecedents of consumption; the adulterations and impurities of food; the homes of the poor in cities; and health of towns.

Of these articles, that on beer shops, by Dr. Aldrich, adduces testimony to show that they have proved to be nuisances wherever established, and highly injurious to the lower orders. The artificial flavoring articles now so largely sold have been carefully examined, and an amount of deception discovered highly discreditable to the community. One Philadelphia drug firm appears to be chiefly engaged in furnishing supplies to adulterate and imitate liquors and wines. Such a trade should be prohibited by statute, and those who engage in it criminally prosecuted.

The article on consumption is from letters to Dr. BOWDITCH. A novelty in it is the apparent ill effects of eating pork, and the exemption of the Jews, in great measure, from diseases to which pork eaters are liable. Other causes, however, may account for this. The free use of alcoholic drinks would seem, in some cases, though by no means in all or in many, to have acted as a prophylactic in consumption. Occasionally they appear to hasten rather than retard the disease.

Determination of the Life or Death of the Fœtus.

Dr. COHNSTEIN says that the temperature of the fœtus *in utero* is higher than the maternal temperature, and that by carefully introducing the thermometer into the cavity of the uterus, between the membranes and the wall, we have a certain and ready method of settling the question as to the life or death of the fœtus.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 24, 1873.

S. W. BUTLER, M. D., D. G. BRINTON, M. D., Editors.

☞ Medical Societies and Clinical Reports, Notes and Observations, Foreign and Domestic Correspondence, News, etc., etc., of general medical interest, are respectfully solicited.

Articles of special importance, such especially as require original experimental research, analysis, or observation, will be liberally paid for.

☞ To insure publication, articles must be *practical, brief* as possible to do justice to the subject, and *carefully prepared*, so as to require little revision.

☞ Subscribers are requested to forward to us copies of newspapers containing reports of Medical Society meetings, or other items of special medical interest.

We particularly value the practical experience of country practitioners, many of whom possess a fund of information that rightfully belongs to the profession.

The Proprietor and Editors disclaim all responsibility for statements made over the names of correspondents.

A FEW WARNINGS ABOUT LIFE INSURANCE.

Some weeks ago, in referring to a sanitary journal which is among the new-comers in the periodical world, we expressed our regret that it was, or seemed to be, too much in the life insurance interest. It is by no means the first time that we have asked our readers to consider somewhat the pretensions and the practice of the Life Insurance system of the United States. As now constituted, we regard it as a vast deception, which works much good, it is true, but also very great evil, and is very far below what it ought to be.

That journal contained an article on Life Insurance as promotive of longevity and business success, written entirely in favor of insuring. Now the experience of years in a large city, intimately mixing with all classes of population, has brought repeatedly to our notice instances of men who are leading reckless and dissipated lives, spending all their income, negligent in their avocations, and though married and with children, always ready, when remonstrated with, with the excuse, "I have my life insured for ten thousand dollars. I keep up the policy. My family is provided for. Why should I

save?" But a month or two ago a literary man, a professional writer, of fair reputation, used this argument to us. We have heard it repeatedly. We have even heard insurance agents put it as an excellent reason why one should insure. "You need not be afraid," we have heard them say to laboring men, "to take a glass of beer, or have a jolly time now and then at the tavern with your cronies; take a policy, pay the premiums, and your family is provided for better than if you spared and saved, and denied yourself your beer and jollifications."

This devilish temptation *we have heard* often, and witnessed its effects, and they were directly the opposite of what the author above referred to would have us believe.

Of the falsity of many physical examinations for life insurance, and the enforced and degrading subserviency of too many medical examiners to the local agent, we have before spoken. It is notorious and indisputable. The enormous commission given to agents, from twenty to *fifty* per cent. (the latter figure by one well-known company), and these unsafe risks are paid, how? By a deliberate system of deceiving the insured; a system which is sure to catch him in one net, if not in another.

The plan of forfeiting absolutely policies when the premiums are not punctually paid is such an open and deliberate plundering, and so distasteful to the public, that many companies have given it up, or conceal it by various devices. But one company, at least, with barefaced audacity, advertises that these forfeited policies pay all its expenses!

The plan of having the insured give notes in part payment for his premium, which, theoretically, his share of the profits in mutual companies is to pay, is popular and seductive. In practice, the insured (or the "risk," as he is technically and very appropriately termed), discovers to his astonishment that year by year the cash he has to pay *increases*, in order to pay the interest on the constantly increasing indebtedness.

It is further notorious and demonstrated that the Expectation of Life, as calculated from the Tables in use in this country, is false and unfair to the insured. In the last Registration Report of Michigan this was proven in detail, as we showed at the time. There is not even an effort at honesty in this direction.

When everything else fails, a company can refuse to pay the amount of a policy on some plea. Within the last month we have noticed three such cases before the courts, every one of which has been decided against the companies. One was the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York vs. Ferry. The company had refused to pay the insurance on the life of a person who committed suicide by taking poison. The facts show that the reason of deceased had become "so impaired by insanity that his suicide was not his voluntary intelligent act." On these facts the court holds that the company is liable, although the policy contained a provision against suicide. As this was in the Supreme Court of the United States it will be of permanent binding. That a company should strive to evade payment because a person died of an incident common to disease of the brain, is surprising.

In a second case the company's plea was that he had concealed the fact that he was suffering from incipient consumption, and on this account had been previously rejected by other companies. The charge to the jury was to the effect that if such concealment had been committed it was sufficient to vitiate the policy. The jury, however, did not think there had been any deception, and brought in a verdict against the company for the full sum named in the policy, and the interest and dividends accrued thereon since the death.

On this the *Public Ledger*, of this city, remarks:—"This verdict will be gladly received by the legion of insurers, who look with alarm upon the growing tendency to resist payment on the part of some life in-

surance companies whose representatives are anxious enough to collect premiums from their customers, but regard it as quite a different matter when, after death, the widows and orphans ask for the money due them in return."

Many general agents have incomes from ten thousand to thirty thousand dollars a year; directors grow rich; and the heirs of prominent citizens are paid promptly, and the fact published in all the papers. But the poor widows, the unprotected orphans, are too often cheated out of all they should have.

The moral of this is that the man who looks to his life insurance as the provision for his family, and for this reason neglects the old and sound rules of economy, is to be pitied; and the profession or the periodical which, in the face of these too well-known facts we have just stated—and the half not told—lauds our present system, is also to be pitied, but for a very different reason.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Toner Lectures.

The second lecture of the "Toner" course was delivered by C. E. BROWN-SEQUARD, E. D., his subject being "Nervous Force; the extent, variety, and power of its manifestations."

He said that in fact all disturbances of the human system were attributable to nervous influences. Even itch and other diseases of the skin could be traced to this same cause, and the medical profession would never be able to treat diseases with anything like intelligence until this was fully understood. Epilepsy is always produced by the irritation of some peculiar nerve, and to be cured that nerve must be found and the cure reached through that. Physicians made many mistakes in attributing diseases to causes that had nothing to do with the matter. For instance, bed-sores, which were considered by medical men to be caused by pressure and the irritation produced by the excrement, were solely due to nerve influence. This he had proved by experiments on animals. And, again, many diseases of the limbs and joints which commonly were attributed to

some local cause, were to be traced to the base of the brain. This he had proved beyond the peradventure of a doubt by experimenting on animals. He had known the knee-joint to swell to three times its size in a single night from a disease of the spinal cord. The same was true in many of the lung diseases. Amputation of the limbs will produce an atrophy of *medulla oblongata* by cutting off so much of the nerve nutrition. The nervous irritation would affect different people in different ways; for instance, one thousand people might come out of a hot, crowded theatre into a cold storm, nine hundred of them escape injury, but of the one hundred injured no two would be affected alike, but all would be affected through the same channels, the nerves of the skin.

The Nature and Uses of Asbestos.

This substance may have valuable surgical applications. In the *Journal of Applied Science*, for April, Mr. P. L. Simmonds says, "Asbestos is a mystery. When all its properties are known, the substance itself is still more puzzling. In appearance as friable and perishable as thistledown, it is older than any order of animal or vegetable life on earth. So little amenable is it to the dissolving influences of time, that the action of unnumbered centuries, by which the hardest rocks known to geologists are worn away, has no appreciable effect on this strange substance, which is found imbedded in them. With its great proportion of bulk, composed of the most rough and gritty materials known, it is itself as smooth to the touch as soap or oil, and may be made as light and buoyant as feathers. Apparently as combustible as tow, the fiercest heat cannot consume it, and the thready filaments may be mingled with molten brass or iron without losing their characteristic form. Finally, no combination of acids at present known in any way affects the appearance and strength of its fibre, even after days of exposure to their action. The name of this article is derived from the Greeks. 'Asbestos' literally means 'indestructible'—a title which is very thoroughly earned by this strange substance. It is, moreover, so unassailable by all known solvents that it is a virtual impossibility to analyze and give its component parts with exactness. The practical uses to which it is not only possible but probable that asbestos will be put are

almost numberless. Occupying as it does the position of a connecting link between the vegetable and mineral kingdoms, and possessing the properties of all, scarcely too much can be claimed for it in regard to its adaptation to useful appliances. Asbestos boats, tubs, boxes, wagon bodies, and even railway carriages, which will neither rot, burn, nor splinter, are perfectly practicable and possible."

Strychnine in Atrophy of the Optic Nerve.

Mr. JABEZ HOGG, in an article on this subject in the *Medical Press and Circular*, believes that, notwithstanding the statements of Prof. Nagel and Dr. Chisolm, strychnine is only of use in those cases which are benefited by any of the so-called nerve tonics. He asserts that in white atrophy having cerebral origin, or in the atrophy following glaucoma, or in choroido-iritis in which the atrophic mischief involves the retinal vessels, or in the atrophy which sometimes follows syphilitic iritis, or in myopia with posterior staphyloema and albuminuric degeneration, strychnine is useless, if not harmful. Three interesting cases are recorded.

Climate of Southern California.

Our friend, Dr. E. J. RUSS, writes us from San Diego, Cal., where he is taking a health trip:—

I am delighted with this coast. The climate is perfectly charming; thermometer ranges, at this season, from 60° to 75°. My health is very much improved; cough has entirely left me. I spent a few weeks at Mazatlan, Mexico, and found it several degrees warmer than here, but the hotel accommodations poor.

Atrophy of the Testes from Iodide of Potassium.

Dr. Lomon relates the case of a man who had been treated by him for syphilis, and had received benefit from the use of iodide of potassium. A year afterwards syphilitic symptoms appeared in the throat; and the patient, remembering the good effects already produced by the iodide, and following the advice of injudicious friends, took the drug in inordinate quantities. He soon remarked that his testes were diminishing in size; and on examining him some time later, Dr. Lomon could detect no vestige of the right, while the left was reduced to the size of a filbert.

Medical Mistakes.

"A constant reader of the REPORTER" writes us (anonymously) a severe stricture on the mistakes of physicians, and claims that while these mistakes occur—as we confess they frequently do—we should say nothing against quack medicines. This is a logic which inclines us to ask the privilege, as Charles Lamb did of the visitor who asserted his belief that Shakspeare was "an able writer," of feeling the gentleman's bumps. His mental development must certainly be of an unusual character.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Belladonna in Opium Poisoning.

EDS. MED. AND SURG. REPORTER:—

Having read an article in the REPORTER of Dec. 2, 1871, No. 23, page 513, on the use of belladonna in opium poisoning, I will add my experience both with and without the use of that article.

In the spring of 1866 I was called in consultation with Drs. Rockwell and Whitecraft to visit Mr. G. H., aged about 30 years (previously in good health), who was known to have taken $\frac{3}{4}$ ss tr. opii, and from all the circumstances it was believed he had taken a larger amount of the same article several hours before, with the intention of putting an end to his existence.

I first saw him about 5 P. M. Exercise, counter-irritants of ammonia, mustard and brandy, were freely used. The stomach pump was immediately applied, the contents removed, the viscous washed thoroughly with water, and then brandy, ammonia and water were introduced, also stimulating injections per anum.

The energetic use of the above medicine seemed to have very little, if any, beneficial effect. The patient's condition became extremely critical. Artificial respiration was resorted to for more than an hour, resulting with apparent success. Pulse 90 per minute, very weak; respirations 8 to 10 per minute; patient lying on the back, remaining in this condition for an hour and a quarter, apparently doing well. Great hopes were entertained of recovery, when suddenly he gave a struggle, and the action of the heart and lungs ceased at once. All possible means were instantly resorted to, without the least effect. No belladonna was used.

I am of the opinion that the sensitive nerves of the epiglottis were so powerfully affected by the opiate that it fell down and stopped the trachea as effectually as a foreign body would have done. In the future, under such circumstances, I would lay the patient on the side, with the face inclining downward, so as to keep the glottis open as much as possible for the ingress of air.

Case No. 2.—April 19th, 1869. Miss G. R., 24 years of age, had taken a small dose of

morphine early in the morning, for sick headache. About 11 A. M., suffering severely from the same cause, and learning that her sister, residing in a distant part of the State, was not expected to live, she went to a drug store and ordered four doses of morphine of ordinary size. She took three and a half of these doses at short intervals, and at 4 P. M. appeared so powerfully affected by the medicine that her friends became alarmed and called for my assistance. An emetic of sulph. zinc was quickly given, which acted thoroughly; strong counter-irritants were applied to the surface; internally, strong coffee and brandy in connection with fluid ext. belladonna (Tilden's), as soon as it could be procured. About half an hour from the time patient was first seen, her pulse was very slow and weak; respirations 7 per minute. Gave $\frac{3}{4}$ ss of the extract, repeating every half hour until $\frac{3}{4}$ ij were taken. The heart's action, for an hour and a half, became more feeble; no pulse at the wrist; respirations decreased to 3 to 4 per minute. At 6 P. M. the heart's action began slowly to improve, the breathing remaining about the same for an hour and a half longer, when a gradual improvement began in all the symptoms, resulting in complete recovery.

The remaining half dose of morphine was procured, carefully weighed, and amounted to one and three-quarter grains, which would make 98 doses (considering gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ as such), or 124 grs., as the amount taken, excluding the quantity early in the morning.

Case 3.—Aug. 31st, 1870. I was called in great haste to visit Miss R., who resided at some distance from this city. She was engaged to be married, the parents objecting. She agreed to meet her lover at a railroad station, where he failed her. Her condition was such that life became a burden. She procured $\frac{3}{4}$ ij tr. opii, and took it at a single dose. I did not see this case until three and a half hours after the drug was taken. An emetic of the sulph. zinc was given, but did not act. The fluid ext. belladonna was resorted to, in 25-drop doses, repeated every twenty minutes for two hours, when the quantity was lessened to 10, for an hour longer. During all this time external applications were diligently applied. Three hours and a half from the time the patient was first seen all the symptoms seemed to have greatly improved, although there was slight delirium, with considerable dilatation of the pupils, showing the effect of the belladonna. Entire recovery ensued.

B. F. BARNES, M. D.

Taylorsville, Ill.

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania.

The annual session will be held in Carlisle, Cumberland county, Pa., commencing Wednesday, June 11th, at 11 A. M.

A large and interesting meeting is anticipated.

Texas State Medical Association.

The State Medical Association was called to order by the President, Dr. R. T. Flewellyn, at Waco, Texas, April 8, 1873.

Dr. Stuart, Chairman of the Committee on Publication, Finance and Claims, reported that owing to want of means, the Minutes of last meeting were not published. Report accepted.

Dr. Stuart made the following report upon the death of A. Connell, M. D., late Secretary of the Association:—

Resolved, That we, the members of the Texas State Medical Association, recognize the hand of God in removing from our midst our esteemed brother and Secretary, Alva Connell, M. D., of Houston, Texas.

He was born in Hancock county, Ga., in 1846; died in August, 1872, at the early age of 26 years; was educated at the Military Institute, Marietta, Ga.; served two years in the Confederate army. Immediately after the close of the late war he entered the New Orleans School of Medicine, and began the study of the profession of his choice, where he continued to study until the close of the Lectures in 1867. Then he went to Shreveport and read under Dr. Clay, until the fall of 1868, when he entered the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, of New York, where he graduated and received his diploma the following March, 1869. After completing his medical education he located at Houston, and became associated with Dr. C. M. Owen, in charge of the City Hospital.

Dr. Ross moved that a committee of three be appointed by the Association to take under consideration the bill now before the Legislature, to regulate the practice of Medicine, and report to this Association, and bring it as near as possible to conform to the views of this Association. Carried.

The bill was read and discussed at length.

Dr. Wallace read again, by request, his report on Hematuria Miasmatica.

The election of officers for the coming year came next in order, which resulted in the choice of

Dr. D. F. Stuart, of Houston, President; Dr. H. W. Brown, of Waco, 1st Vice President; Dr. J. M. Morrison, of Hearne, 2d Vice President; Dr. S. B. Hamlette, of Waco, Corresponding Secretary; Dr. S. O. Young, of Houston, Secretary; Dr. J. Larendon, of Houston, Treasurer.

Morgan County, Ohio, Medical Society.

The seventh anniversary meeting of the Morgan County Medical Society was held at the court house, May 8th, 1873, at 2 P. M. The President, Dr. Fisher, being absent, Dr. T. A. Wakely, Vice-President, took the chair, and called the Society to order. Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. Reports of officers were now in order; the Secretary and Treasurer being unprepared with a written report asked permission to hand in their communications at the next regular meeting, which was granted.

The Society now proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following results:—

President, Dr. W. H. King; Vice-President, Dr. N. S. Read; Secretary, Dr. C. J. Lucas; Treasurer, Dr. M. H. Cassell; Examining Committee, Drs. King, Prince, Welch, and Reichman.

The Society failed to elect a fifth member, being equally divided. After many ballots it was moved to postpone this matter to the next meeting. Carried.

On motion, the Society adjourned to June 12th, 1873.

M. H. CASSELL, M.D., Secretary.

—It is intended to erect a statue of the celebrated Italian anatomist, Bartholomew Eustachius. A committee for the purpose has been formed at San Severino, his native place, and a subscription list has been opened.

—New Haven is attempting to raise a fund of \$30,000, to establish a training-school for nurses at the Connecticut State Hospital, in that city. Success to so worthy a project!

MARRIAGES.

BACKUS—WASHINGTON.—April 30th, by the Rev. Dr. Backus, Clarence W. Backus and Susan Livingston, daughter of the late Dr. James A. Washington, of New York City.

MOSER—FIELD.—In New York, May 7th, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, by Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, Jr., D. D., William Moser, of that city, and Helen A., daughter of Dr. George E. Field, of Trinidad, West Indies.

METCALFE—ROCHAT.—At Florence, Italy, April 19th, by Rev. Mr. Van Nest, Pastor of the American Union Chapel, Dr. Frank J. Metcalfe, of New York, and Helene, daughter of L. Rochat, of Florence.

MCVICKAR—MCVICKAR.—On the 5th of May, at the Church of the Holy Communion, New York, by Rev. F. E. Lawrence, D.D., John A. McVickar, M.D., and Eweretta Constable, daughter of the late Edward McVickar.

QUINN—QUINN.—At the Clinton House, Covington, Ky., by the Rev. Mr. Frost, Dr. J. L. Quinn and Miss Lizzie Quinn.

STYER—LAKUE.—April 30th, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. Mr. Langley, Dr. Charles Styer, U. S. A., and Mary Lakue, daughter of Moses Lakue, Esq., all of this city.

WOOSTER—STOUT.—On the 1st day of May, at the residence of the bride's parents, Berlin, N. J., by Rev. E. H. Stokes, assisted by Rev. J. F. Morell, Charles Ira Wooster and Clara E., eldest daughter of Dr. Daniel M. Stout, all of Berlin.

DEATHS.

BARRY.—At his residence, near Fort Smith, Ark., April 30th, Dr. J. M. Barry, in the 54th year of his age.

CURWEN.—At Harrisburg, Pa., May 12th, 1873, Martha P. Curwen, wife of John Curwen, M.D.

NUTT.—April 24th, at Gillen's Landing, Ark., Dr. Rush Nutt, aged 35 years, formerly of Hinds county, Miss.

VANSICKEL.—In Clinton, N. J., December 11th, 1872, Mary C. Vansickel, aged four years, four months, and five days, daughter of Dr. S. and M. E. Vansickel.